II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A control element having a rotary knob, having a magnetic circuit and having at least one coil, wherein the rotary knob is supported so as to be rotatable with respect to at least a part of the magnetic circuit, ~~the~~ a gap between the rotary knob and the magnetic circuit is filled with a magnetorheologic fluid, and the coil is arranged to exert a variable braking action on the rotary knob.

2. (Previously Presented) A control element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the magnetic field in the magnetorheologic fluid extends in a radial direction.

3. (Currently Amended) A control element as claimed in claim 1, wherein a ring of a hard magnetic material has been provided to keep metal particles contained in the magnetorheologic fluid away from ~~the~~ a bearing and sealing area, and a further sealing element has been provided to ensure that ~~the~~ a suspension substance of the magnetorheologic fluid remains in the gap.

4. (Currently Amended) A control element as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a ring of a hard material, in conjunction with ~~the~~ a sealing element and the magnetorheologic fluid in the gap, ~~is adapted to perform the function of a~~ are configured to be a bearing.

5. (Currently Amended) A control element as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ an entire mechanical structure and ~~the~~ a plurality of ~~required~~ sensors are accommodated in the interior of

the rotary knob.

6. (Currently Amended) A control element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the control element includes Hall sensors and a sensor magnet wheel for determining the position of the rotary knob with respect to ~~the~~ a stationary part of the magnetic circuit.

7. (Currently Amended) A control element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rotary knob is adapted to perform a push-button function in an axial direction of its shaft, and ~~the~~ a plurality of Hall sensors and ~~the~~ a sensor magnet wheel are arranged in the control element so ~~in such a manner~~ that, in addition to the angular position, they can detect ~~the~~ a push-button function of the rotary knob.

8. (Previously Presented) A control element as claimed in claim 1, wherein an electronic circuit for driving the coil has been provided, which circuit energizes the coil.

9. (Previously Presented) A control element as claimed in claim 8, wherein the electronic circuit is adapted to simulate the impression of a mechanical stop in dependence on the angle of rotation of the rotary knob.

10. (Currently Amended) A control element as claimed in claim 8, wherein the electronic circuit is adapted ~~to~~ such that control latching functions and other braking functions are dependent upon an ~~in dependence on the~~ angle of rotation of the rotary knob and of the time.

11. (Previously Presented) A control element as claimed in claim 9, wherein the electronic circuit controls the rotary knob in such a manner that also after forcible turning far beyond the simulated stop the braking action of the rotary knob is cancelled immediately in the case of rotation in the opposite direction.

12. (Previously Presented) A control element as claimed in claim 8, wherein the control element is adapted to control a graphical user interface.

13. (Previously Presented) A control element as claimed in claim 8, wherein the control element is adapted to perform the functions of conventional controls on electrical apparatuses.

14. (Previously Presented) A control element as claimed in claim 10, wherein the control element provides an additional feedback response in the form of synthesized speech when a menu item on the graphical user interface is reached.